

CHALLENGE



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MAY DAY —WORKERS' DAY

COLOMBIA 2019



BROOKLYN 2019



The following speech will be given at an Education May Day in New York City (see next issue).

The world under capitalism is failing and there are two emerging options—the bosses' option is fascism. Fascism through increased surveillance and police, war over profits and power, destruction of health and education systems, and other crimes against us. Covid-19 has laid bare the lethal racist inequalities of the profit system. From the United States to Africa, from Latin America to South Asia, workers everywhere are suffering unnatural deaths from the disease of capitalism. The choice between capitalist decay and an international communist future has never been clearer.

For the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), our way is building a communist world where workers seize power and erect a society in the interest of the entire international working class.

Neighborhoods, churches, schools, prisons, hospitals, community centers, trains, and buses. These are some of the places where PLP is cultivating a culture of fightback and pro-communist ideas and practices. We are building a Party where all workers and lives are considered essential.

May Day is the celebration of class. Today, we bridge our demands together to fight for communism, a world where exploitation of workers by bosses is banned and racism and sexism is outlawed. The coronavirus is an opportunity

for bosses to increase their power but also for workers to fight back and build a world worthy of us. With our responses to the Covid-19 pandemic, communists and friends of the party are already showing how a communist world where we rely on each other instead of bosses could be possible. Haiti. Mexico. Colombia. Chicago. Los Angeles. East Africa. All over the world, we are finding innovative ways to safeguard the health and fighting spirit of our class.

In the last year alone, we have many fightbacks to celebrate:

- Newark, NJ: workers fought for lead-free water and exposed the racist lies of the liberal mayor.
- Los Angeles, CA: Workers connected the struggle of Shantel Davis in Brooklyn to Alex Flores in LA, both who lost their family members to kkkiller kops.
- From Puerto Rico to Colombia, we led the way for an education for liberation for our students.

Meanwhile, how are the bosses responding? On one side, the Small Fascist domestic bosses are pushing to open businesses back up. See, no matter the way they go about it, the ruling class puts workers around the world last and the well being of their profits first! They are building a new

world that will put us all in danger but Big Fascist liberals like Cuomo in NY, Ras Baraka in Newark, AMLO in Mexico, Lori Lightfoot in Chicago are the main danger for workers today and moving forward after Covid-19. The Big Fascist liberals send their lackeys like NY Governor Cuomo to cry crocodile tears while still ripping out the vital resources. They smile in our face while planning ways to lock Black and Latin workers up, whether that's in the prison system or in debt to the banks. With our chains attached, they'll ship us to war against their biggest rivals, China and Russia but package the gift of joining their multiracial ranks as freedom from capitalism.

To be a communist means to step up in defense of the working class, now in crisis, and forever in struggle. The opportunities to serve our class will continue on even after Covid-19. It is only by the international working class uniting together to fight back against this racist, sexist system that we can put in real work to free us all.

Worldwide, capitalist infrastructure is crumbling. From our homes, schools, prisons, and the slaughterhouse-hospitals, workers lives matter as long as they create profit. It is our duty as members of the international working class to take responsibility for each other and lead the way toward a communist future. Power to the working class! ✖

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Covid-19 accelerates fascism and war

Every day, capitalism more and more reveals itself as a system that can never serve workers’ needs and must be wiped from the face of the earth. The new coronavirus pandemic, which rulers worldwide could see coming, has temporarily shut down large sectors of their economy. But regardless of when the bosses reopen some or all of their factories and services, it’s clear that their much-touted “boom” has become the biggest catastrophe for workers since the Great Depression, or perhaps ever in modern history. Behind this monumental failure are the economic laws of capitalism (see box) and their cyclical crises. Ultimately, the rulers can survive their self-induced cataclysm only by inciting workers to fight and die by the millions in the coming inter-imperialist world war. As communists in Progressive Labor Party, it’s our job to lead the international working class to turn this murderous conflagration into a fire of revolutionary uprisings. It’s our task to build a world that abolishes production for profit, racism, sexism, and the exploitation of workers.

Big Fascists’ divisions

The Big Fascists of finance capital, who have led U.S. imperialism since World War II, are in a fight to the death with the domestically oriented Small Fascists led by the Koch family and fronted by President Donald Trump. These two factions of bloodsucking parasites have different ideas about getting their profit machine back on track. The Small Fascists are pushing to reopen businesses quickly while passing the buck for Covid-19 testing and ducking any obligation to the cash-hemorrhaging states. The more long-term-thinking Big Fascists, like the Council on Foreign Relations’ Richard Haass, understand that state and local governments and hospitals will need funds to stay afloat and keep workers alive and churning out profits. The ruling class can’t wait until 2021 and a possible vaccine to end mass “safer-at-home” orders and reopen their economy. They need to ramp up surveillance testing and tracking on a mass scale. If they succeed in doing it, it won’t be out of empathy for the workers whose lives hang in the balance. The bosses care only about keeping their assembly lines and supply chains intact and protecting their industries from destruction.

Though they have yet to gather the will to practice what they preach, the Big Fascists know they need to discipline their own class to build all-class unity for world war. They must also co-opt the burgeoning struggles of fast food and other workers and by tenant unions calling for strikes and rent cancellation. But even as liberal Democratic governors like California’s Gavin Newsom and New York’s Andrew Cuomo feign concern for their residents, it is clear they botched the response to this crisis (see CHALLENGE, 4/29). In fact, both federal and state politicians made severe budget cuts that have led to rationed health care for the working class. Annual reports from U.S. intelligence agencies predicting an inevitable pandemic make a mockery of ruling class claims that they could not prepare for it (The Atlantic, 3/18).

As the great “progressive” hope Bernie Sanders endorses the racist, sexist bankers’ stooge, Joe Biden, as the Democratic nominee for president, main wing liberals are blaming Trump for the latest economic crisis and mismanaging the Covid-19 response. But communists know that the problem began long before Trump and will be with us long after the racist grifter is gone. It’s capitalism that creates the conditions for the disasters that ravage the working class.

With the seeming success in containing the virus in Australia and New Zealand, as well as in South Korea, “some scientists wonder if eliminating the virus with good management might rebuild some faith not just in democracy, but also in the value of expertise” (New York Times, 4/24).

The island nations’ bosses swiftly locked down outside travel and controlled their populations with thorough contact tracing through cell phones. Sooner than later, the U.S. rulers will need similar technology to impose open fascism and prepare for war.

Buildup to World War III

Prolonged global economic crises expose the fact that capitalism will never work for the working class. As their rate of profit falls (see box), capitalists have only one option: a massive destruction of productive capacity that allows them to start the next cycle with

Karl Marx on Capitalism in Crisis

“Overproduction is specifically conditioned by the general law... to exploit the maximum amount of labour with the given amount of capital, without any consideration for the actual limits of the market or the needs backed by the ability to pay.”

-Karl Marx, Crisis Theory

Karl Marx and the early communist movement studied and exposed the inner workings of capitalism. These thinkers found that capitalist economies—based on production for profit—are vulnerable to periodic crises. Two of their most important ideas are the crisis of overproduction, the result of an unplanned, competitive system, and the tendency of the rate of profit to fall over time.

Mature capitalism requires huge corporations to borrow enormous amounts of money to beat out the competition and corner the market. It creates a consumer economy that requires massive amounts of credit and debt. The bosses’ profit imperatives and competitive pressures lead them to ruthlessly cut costs and attack workers’ wages. This in turn leads to overproduction, since workers can’t afford to buy what all the companies produce.

As restaurants close and workers are fired or furloughed and can’t buy as much food, we see farmers destroying livestock and crops simply because they can’t sell them. No matter that children are going hungry and groceries and food banks are battling shortages. If goods can’t generate a profit, the bosses will plow them under. The capitalist ruling class is driven first and last to protect its own economic interests. Workers’ needs are irrelevant.

The falling rate of profit is most noticeable in advanced capitalist economies like the U.S. Early on, it leads businesses to move their factories to less developed countries, where they can pay workers less and environmental regulations are looser. Then they shift their capital from plants and new technology into paper investments like mortgages and other debt packaged as assets. These asset bubbles eventually burst, as evidenced by the subprime housing market debacle in 2007-8. Because of the global interconnectedness of capitalism, economic downturns in one area soon lead to devastating consequences for workers throughout the world.

less competition. The capitalist world escaped the Great Depression only after both sides bombed their rivals’ factories into oblivion in World War II.

Today, as a prelude to the war to come, the rulers’ nationalist propaganda is on the rise in the U.S. and China. Both of these imperialist rivals must win workers to betray their own class interests and fight a duel to the death for world hegemony. China, the rising power, has used the Covid-19 crisis to brandish its world leadership credentials. Since March 1, it has exported millions of masks, testing kits, and pieces of personal protective equipment (New York Post, 4/6), while pointing to high U.S. death rates and blaming the U.S. military for concocting the rus. The U.S. rulers, meanwhile, are promoting anti-China racism by attacking the Chinese bosses’ early cover-up of the extent of the infection and using the CIA to uncover uncounted deaths there (NYT, 4/2). In its latest vain attempt to check China’s expansion, the U.S. Navy has sent warships into the South China Sea (NYT, 4/21).

Only communism can serve the working class

Workers forced to choose between hunger and a deadly virus can see through this racist garbage. Though many mass protests have been curtailed by curfews and bans on gatherings, workers are still letting their voices be heard. Whether with masks and physical distancing, in caravans of cars, or online and on the phone, strikes and protests are inspiring our class worldwide. Let workers led by communists seize these moments of struggle.

Let’s overthrow the bosses and their death-dealing

Continued on page 4

Do not accept this death sentence for our class



WESTVILLE, INDIANA, April 28—An impromptu call to action via a Facebook event led to about 80 cars circling the Westville Correctional Facility today. Antiracists decorated their cars with demands for better living conditions and medical care for imprisoned workers. Brazen disregard and torment from the prison's guards has resulted in 92 percent of imprisoned workers testing positive for Covid-19 and one death (Chicago Tribune, 4/22). This deadly system does not deserve to exist.

These conditions only serve as another example as to why this terroristic capitalist system has not and will never serve the working class. While the organizers of the protest laughed and made friends with racist kkkops, members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) displayed revolutionary messages such as “capitalism kills” and “a better world is possible” and connected with workers who have loved ones inside the prison.

Capitalist inequality makes workers sick

Prisons offer no opportunity for social

distancing and the racist guards who run the prisons know this. Imprisoned workers have been reporting to their families on the outside that they do not have any access to personal protective equipment (PPE) nor has there been any attempt to sanitize the prison. Even worse, we spoke to a mother outside of the prison who received a report from her incarcerated son that the guards are intentionally disciplining members of our class by placing them in areas with a high concentration of imprisoned workers with Covid-19. We cannot continue to allow this system to dehumanize and murder our class.

Liberals will never liberate us

While the action was a crucial show of solidarity with incarcerated workers, the organizers of the action made sure to tow the capitalist line. When we arrived, we were given a prayer sheet that included a “thank you” to law enforcement for “putting their lives on the line” while they threaten the lives of our working class brothers and sisters. Others even gave kkkops peace signs in a show of solidarity. Such passive tactics spread illusions about what's possible

under capitalism. No matter how we paint it, law enforcement enforces the racist laws that serve capitalism. They are no friends of the working class.

PLP pushed the limits by honking our horns and being as loud as possible so that imprisoned workers could hear us. Imprisoned workers were holding bedsheets out of their cell windows with “SOS” written across. We must make ourselves heard to those who are being most downtrodden by this system. Despite being asked to stop honking our horns, we continued to push the limits. Our class depends on our collective liberation to survive and that means that we continue to fight back against liberal concessions.

Mass incarceration traumatizes children

Some cars in the caravan were not participating; they were parked on the side of the road with signs in support of it. We decided we would pull over to talk to these workers with physical distance between us. We were able to get them our website and social media information and talk to them about the conditions inside of the prison. Two women had sons inside the prison and were terrified for their lives. One woman's son has cancer and the last time she spoke to him, he told her that they were not giving him his medication. She told us she has not spoken to her son in a week. Every time she calls, they hang up on her. She informed us that despite water contamination, imprisoned workers have not been given bottled water. What's worse, she has a five-month-old grandchild who has never met her father. Now, with his life in danger, it is possible that he will never meet her. The conditions capitalism creates for working class families are traumatizing.

It is up to our class to make a better world for us and our children. Only a communist world created by and for the working class with PLP leadership will cure this virus that is capitalism. Join us!🇸🇰

Maquila bosses put profit over workers' health

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO, April 29—Throughout Northern Mexico workers organized, protested, demanded safety, and refused to continue producing profits for U.S. companies as their class brothers and sisters died. As Covid-19 continues to spread internationally, capitalism has forced bosses to choose between making money and workers' lives. But in an effort to take back control of their health and safety some of the most super-exploited workers have ignited a wave of protests.

Since sweeping shutdowns were instituted in March stores, factories, and businesses have been closing and either furloughing workers, or where doable ordering work-from-home stipulations. At thousands of Maquiladoras, foreign-owned factories along the Mexican-U.S. border, however, workers continue to churn out electronics, medical supplies, and car parts huddled next to one another with no safety precautions (LATimes 4/20).

As fatal Covid-19 outbreaks began to erupt workers said no to being sacrificed for bosses' profits. Just this week rallying cries from workers resulted in 14 maquiladoras being shut down for violating health restrictions. “The Labor Ministry closed down the factories in Juarez, Chihuahua City, Cuauhtémoc, and Parral (Border Report 4/21).” And weeks earlier nearly 130 maquiladoras in Tijuana were deemed as “non-essential” and ordered to cease operation (Border Report 4/10).

Maquiladoras were created in 1994 after the North American Free Trade Agreement was signed. And then saw a boom in the 2000s under the administration of Vicente Fox, when the United States and Canada signed a free trade deal called Plan Puebla Panama or PPP [Private Plans for Profit]



which created a road of duty-free factories at the border between Mexico and the U.S.

Because finished products are for export-only this road of cheap labor benefits U.S. companies looking for unregulated slave-labor. The Mexican labor department has no jurisdiction over working conditions in these factories leaving already vulnerable and super-exploited workers even more at risk (CorpWatch 9/02). (See letter, page 6)

Although some of the factories have been shut down many are not and workers are forced to continue to be exposed to inhumane conditions: working without the respective sanitary conditions, quarantined with little to no pay. At minimum workers have been given disinfectant gel, gloves, masks, and have their temperatures checked upon arrival. But these bare minimum attempts are all in the name of production not health.

“Mexico has 7,497 confirmed coronavirus cases and 650 deaths, including 138 in states along the northern border. The real numbers are almost certainly much higher, because Mexico has conducted fewer than 50,000 tests, compared with 3.2 million in the U.S. Top health officials

have acknowledged there may be more than 56,000 infections (LATimes 4/20).”

The irony of the situation is that many of these maquiladora workers are producing medical equipment that could save their lives, just to see them shipped to the U.S. “Baja California is home to a large number of factories that produce medical supplies — a business deemed essential by Mexican authorities. Several major suppliers in Tijuana have helped make Mexico the top source of medical equipment to the United States (LATimes 4/20).”

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is fighting for communist revolution and stands with the workers who demanded better working conditions and factory shut-downs until they could be provided. But we also understand that capitalism has left these workers with a double-edged sword, die working or die unemployed.

Workers' lives are paramount and under communism we would ensure that when a pandemic of this nature hits that all workers would be able to safely isolate, without fear of losing shelter, food, and basic human needs. Under capitalism, that is not the case, as we have seen with Covid-19; profits trump workers' lives anytime.

The reason these companies won't stop production is because their priority is profit. You can't stop production in the capitalist system, it has to keep going even if workers' lives are at risk. The only thing these companies care about is maintaining the means of production in the name of profit by any means necessary.

But under a communist society, run by an international working class we will protect and fight for each other's safety and health. Join PLP! 🇸🇰

Haiti: Workers organize for reform and revolution

HAITI, April 28—In a small town, the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is actively organizing among workers to do what the local government is unable or unwilling to do in order to protect ourselves from the ravages of the coronavirus pandemic that is hitting the working class. It is a good example of how we would rely on workers under communism to share both abundance and privation. Of course, we are in the stage of sharing privation now because we live under the most racist, exploitative system the world has ever seen. This is how we are responding to the crisis.

We are creating groups in various neighborhoods to discuss and plan actions that respond to the needs of the local working class, in view of their strengths and weaknesses. With these neighborhood groups, our plan is to realize the following:

- Sew fabric masks with tailors and home sewers to be distributed locally.
- Set up hand-washing stations in various well-trafficked areas, to be financed through donations.
- Organize surveillance brigades at the entrance to neighborhoods who will be armed with information about how to protect ourselves from the virus.
- Organize a public awareness campaign about the existence and risks associated with coronavirus (so many people are not aware, and the rumor mill is in full operation!)
- In areas where there is medical personnel,



Sign reads, “End the massacre of the poor working class. Justice for the people!”

we will work with them.

- Work with the local population to set up food banks in the most hard-hit areas.
- Set up a medical bank with vitamins, etc. to help those most in need of a nutritional boost.
- Organize regular cleaning of public markets and other spaces susceptible to contamination.

At the moment, there are two neighborhoods in town and two rural communities that are involved. With donations from many individuals and one community organization, there are now 15 public hand-washing stations stocked with soap and disinfectant.

There will be a May Day march on May 1 in Port-au-Prince calling for better working conditions, treatment centers for and protection from coronavirus, lower prices for food and gasoline. We are trying to organize a sound truck to spread the revolutionary messages and raise the idea that the capitalist conditions led to this coronavirus pandemic. We will also call for communist revolution as the only solution.

The day before, there will be a sit-in at the General Hospital (only public hospital in the capital serving millions of workers) demanding better working conditions and wages for hospital workers, as well as the above. Onward to May Day!✊

East Africa: Witch doctors and politicians ruin workers’ lives

EAST AFRICA, April 29— Progressive Labor Party (PLP) here blames capitalist government misleaders for the criminal management of the pandemic. They insist that people continue to work, minimizing the danger of the disease while the infections continue on a daily basis. Initially, they closed the schools and universities but, illogically, told people to go to church, and kept the borders and airports open.

In some countries like Tanzania, President John Magafuli called for three days of national prayers to defeat the coronavirus which he described as a very small disease. Since April 22, when he talked with the head of the military, no new updates of cases

or deaths have been reported. The government is covering up the numbers of infected and dead and where the disease has spread. Tanzania has only one laboratory in the country and only Arusha and Dar es Salaam have the capacity to test and treat Covid-19 patients. Officials in those cities are burying the victims at night, to maintain the cover up.

Electoral false hope won’t beat disease

While Covid-19 spreads, the government is actively organizing for the general elections in October. The ruling party is warning people that areas that vote for the opposition will not get development funds. They formed a fake opposition party to fool people into thinking that it will be a free and fair election. The masses are not fooled by this and have been refusing to register to vote. The working class has been passive in response to the criminal deceit and mismanagement of the pandemic.

Witch doctors are telling people they have a cure, so many people with symptoms are not going to hospitals. We cannot rely on the government or non-scientific witch doctors to keep us safe. Where we live, PLP members are going house to house to educate people about how to protect themselves against the virus, especially the elderly and people with pre-existing conditions. Workers need science, not lies that prey on workers.

In addition, we condemned the racism in the U.S. and China and want to join with others in doing so. PLP is at the forefront of the fight against capitalism and we express our class solidarity with the workers of the world who are facing this disease because of capitalism’s failure to provide decent healthcare and protect us in health emergencies.✊



Editorial

Building communism: the most essential work

system! With 26 million workers and counting having filed for unemployment benefits in the U.S. alone, and millions of others out of work who don’t qualify, there now hundreds of millions more unemployed workers worldwide. As masses face hunger and homelessness, the working class is growing more restless. Strikes for the most basic protective equipment and healthier workplaces are spreading, led by the same workers who recently were fighting like hell for better wages and benefits.

Tenants in North America, Europe, and elsewhere are organizing for May 1 strikes to demand rent cancellation for the duration of the pandemic crisis. While the U.S. rulers fight among themselves over how to hold on to their dwindling power in the face of severe challenges from Chinese imperialists, we in Progressive Labor Party have a historic opportunity. As we continue to organize on the job and in our mass organizations, we can turn this upsurge in activity and militancy into schools for communism.

The profit-mad capitalists have a warped view of “essential” work during a pandemic. Health care, grocery stores, food service, and public transportation are necessities for workers. But construction crews building multimillion-dollar sports stadiums in gentrifying neighborhoods aren’t essential for the working class. Nor are racist police harassing and killing our class brothers and sisters in the streets.

The most essential work we can do is to build a mass communist organization to smash the bosses and kill the contagion of capitalism. On to May Day! Join PLP!✊

Colombia: capitalism is fatal

COLOMBIA, April 30—As everywhere else in the world, workers are sufferings amidst the pandemic. Those of us who still have a job do not get any guarantees from the government or the boss, no minimal safety measures or protective equipment. The bosses fire, suspend or lower our wages. Making our already slaving working conditions more precarious.

Crushing unemployment

Workers are facing unemployment. If we don't have a job, we can't feed our families, we become isolated from our coworkers. We cannot unite against the bosses' attacks. Along with these harsh conditions, we are exposed to infection, to sexist and racist attacks and the bosses' arrogance. The sharpening economic crisis created by the bosses push for war. This has been accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic (see page 2). These conditions are the reality for millions of workers around the world. Unemployment and hunger have increase worldwide. While small businesses fire their workforce, big businesses are doing it too, even with their millions in profits. In the U.S., Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Haiti, and worldwide, millions of workers have been laid off, many are confined to their homes, some are dying without healthcare or money for food.

Long-brewing crisis

Since 1970 we have seen the sharpening of

the bosses' attacks and working conditions. Since then, we have seen the politicians, judges, and bosses' treachery and theft, under the umbrella of their fascist laws that deny social services, wage raises and pensions. Laws that give us sanctions, fines, firings, and the reduction of salaries, as if the salary we get was enough to cover our basic necessities.

To sum up, the contradictions arising from the pandemic deepens the crisis of the capitalist system, not only the savage capitalism, as the liberals and opportunist want us to believe. Throughout history, capitalism has never been able to give the working-class stability; it has only given us disasters, death, hunger, unemployment, and misery. There can be no good capitalism, nor good bosses, they take our labor, because it is the only thing we have to sell.

The victories from past struggles are taken away. Every time capitalism is in crisis, like today, it is the workers who pay the price. That is why PLP is saying that our class can't keep trying to reform this murderous system of profit. Only a communist revolution can destroy it once and for all.

Danger and opportunity

In Colombia, some cities, towns, groups of women, men, and children of the working class, students, farm workers, indigenous workers,

construction workers, health and transportation workers are in a constant struggle, sometimes still isolated and dispersed. They protest, strike, block, and ransack cars and supermarkets. In the face of uncertainty, hunger, and the assassination of social leaders, they are angry, justifiably so. They see the corruption, the decay of all these ruling-class institutions.

Yet in these hard conditions of the period are opportunities to organize and end the dark night of capitalism. PLP is calling for unity of the international working class, our newspaper CHALLENGE, and to all communists, friend, readers, and members, to keep on fighting, do not get demoralized by the brutal attacks of the bosses or the apparent depoliticization of the masses. Our job is to create a revolutionary communist movement.

The working class produces everything of value that exists in our society, we have to organize as a revolutionary party to enjoy the fruits of our labor, no more misery or crumbs from the bosses. We must end the dictatorship of the bosses, which will continue to oppress us until an organized working class with our revolutionary Party violently destroy the capitalists and their racist wage slavery. We will build a new society where we will share everything we produce, collectively, to satisfy our own needs🌐

West Wednesdays go viral, antiracist solidarity grows

BALTIMORE, April 6—The West Wednesday weekly protests in Baltimore against police terror are not derailed by Covid-19. Named in honor of Tyrone West, the rallies have moved from the streets to the screens, streaming to Facebook Live. This shows the creative and resilient spirit of the working class in the face of crisis. The struggle also shows the growing anti-racist movement open to communist ideas.

Nationwide protest on Facebook

People on Facebook have created "Watch Parties," with more than 200 people watching the most recent West Wednesday including people from far away.

Stevante Clark from Sacramento, California talked about the ongoing struggle to win accountability for the police murder of his 23-year-old brother, Stephon, who was murdered in his grandmother's back yard by cops Terrence Mercadal and Jared Robinet in 2018.

Those cops first claimed they thought Stephon was holding a crowbar. In their re-telling, it morphed into a gun, then a cell phone. The truth: Stephon was killed for nothing less than racism!

Also joining in was David Harrison, cousin of Willie McCoy, who was executed by six cops shortly after he fell asleep in his car while waiting in a drive-thru lane at a Taco Bell in Vallejo, California in February of 2019. Workers who couldn't wake up Willie called 911 for a wellness check. Instead of medics, seven cops arrived only to execute Willie: another example of deadly systemic racism.

Tawanda Jones was the host. She is the sister of unarmed Tyrone West, a young Black worker beaten to death by up to 15 kkkops in July of 2013.

She contrasted the ruthless killing of Willie McCoy to the soft handling of white supremacist Dylann Roof who, once in police custody, was given a cheeseburger and a bullet-proof vest, right after he murdered nine Black parishioners in cold blood in Charleston.

West Wednesday Live also discussed COVID-19. A member of Progressive Labor Party explained that the government is enforcing quarantines, but none of them are saying, "Call out the capitalists bosses

who allowed us to get here." How could they when the government serves the capitalists.

Capitalism here in the U.S. has less hospital beds—and we're the richest nation in the world - per person than in 11 other countries, including] South Korea, China, and Italy."

She talked about how New York closed 20 hospitals that mostly served Black and Latin working class neighborhoods in the past 20 years, based on what's profitable for the rich, not what's needed to preserve life.

Capitalism driven by logic of profit

Thirteen years ago in the wake of near-pandemics (SARS, bird flu, swine flu), the U.S. government had launched a project for 70,000 additional ventilators. However, "because of corporations putting money over mankind," those ventilators never got manufactured.

A company, which had contracted with the federal government to build smaller, more mobile, less costly ventilators, actually did produce three working prototypes, but that company got bought by a larger company that was already producing and selling ventilators at higher prices (NYT, 3/29).

Like all capitalists, those profit-driven business owners were focused on maintaining the highest possible profits and, not wanting to undercut sales of their more expensive machines, intentionally sidelined and buried the project that would have created an emergency stockpile of 70,000 life-saving

ventilators. The result is the racist and criminal loss of lives and disproportionately these are the most exploited, Black, Latin workers.(NYT, 4/8)

Michigan has kept track—in 70 percent of the cases—of the racial background of people who have gotten sick with COVID-19. While Black folks make up just 14 percent of the state's population, they have accounted for more than 33 percent of the cases, and 40 percent of the deaths.

The PLP speaker then said, "The real enemy is capitalism. It ain't Donald Trump. It ain't the corona. It's capitalism...We can defeat the corona, but we should also dismantle and destroy this sick system because it's really killing us!"

How to serve the working class

Another speaker was a fighter, here in Baltimore, who talked about how people with low incomes, when picking up food distributed free at sites run by the City, often have to wait in lines without a reliable capability for physical distancing, forcing low-income families to be at higher risk for getting Covid-19.

So he has organized a food pantry where contributing volunteers stock and drive the food directly to the homes of families in need.

We expect online West Wednesday to grow, and to include more and more of the fighters against racism and against police brutality, in Baltimore, and from all over!🌐



LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Covid-19 exposes roots of exploitation

A PLP comrade in a transnational factory in Mexico reports that 10 percent of their workforce; healthy workers over 50 years old, or with a chronic disease such as diabetes and/or hypertension are being laid off and sent into quarantine. Even if the company guarantees the minimum wage during the quarantine, it means a reduction of wages. These workers, in order to make ends meet, have to work overtime, or double shifts, and now they can't do that.

Taking into account that these workers' wage is \$6 a day, being laid off is going to be very difficult in a short period of time, and in the long run if they can't do double shifts or work overtime and on Sundays, it will reflect next year in the annual profit-sharing distribution.

Most corporations are avoiding their future responsibilities with workers, and it is almost certain that once the pandemic is over, our co-workers will not be back at work. The bosses are recruiting new workers to fill 40 vacancies, and most of these workers are under 35 years old.

The bosses solve their problems with disregard for workers' lives, it is no coincidence that the two cities with the highest number of infections in the country are the ones with the highest concentration of maquiladoras. Workers die of covid-19, or hunger, because they have no money to pay for what they need.

★★★★★

Tenants pour collective outrage on racist slumlord

The company that manages the apartment building that I live in posted an insulting and insensitive notice to all tenants. The notice stated, "Tenants have been expressing concerns about the present economic condition that the pandemic is creating that we just want to make clear that we expect you to act responsibly. This is business as usual and continue to pay your rent on time."

We were all outraged and insulted! I began reaching out to my neighbors and suggested we all get together and meet at my place. I organized my house by social distancing chairs and we all had a candid discussion about our financial situation during coronavirus. Out of the discussion we found out that two neighbors' household income was cut in half and our youngest neighbor's job had shut down completely and she is in the U.S working on a Visa. We talked about how the notice offended us and how in the middle of a pandemic they could try to terrorize us about rent. We agreed to write a response and all sign it, and present it to the management company.

My neighbor and I drove separately to the management company and tried to present them with our statement. We discovered that they all were working remotely from home, so we set up the meeting with the building manager instead for the next day. We explained how offensive that notice was and presented him with ours. We demanded that the management company review each tenant on a case-by-case basis and discuss what we feel would be an acceptable payment on our part and this would be reviewed throughout the economic crisis. He said that the notice was not meant to be offensive or to terrorize us but one neighbor spoke up unequivocally and said, "It did."

Although we got the building manager to agree to look at each neighbor on a case by case basis and forced him to back down from the property management's order, we all knew this would not be enough! The period of corona and its aftermath has and will sharpen the racist attacks on our class exponentially. I was honestly fearful in organizing my neighbors into my house and I would not have thought twice about this before the pandemic.

However, this action brought my neighbors and me together on a level of respect and care for one another that never presented itself before. It also gave me the opportunity to point out why the profit system of capitalism does not work for working class people and why I'm a communist. I gave them all a copy of CHALLENGE and will go back and have further discussions with them because we will have to escalate our fight. As horrific as this pandemic is it holds staunchly to what we know as the Party is true: the only solution is communist revolution.

★★★★★

College discussion group responds to racist attack

Our community college club has, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, been struggling to give mass antiracist leadership to workers and students, even internationally! Our multiracial discussion group includes students, faculty, former students now working, friends, and has expanded to Progressive Labor Party friends currently in Canada and Yemen. We recently heard a firsthand report on the situation in Yemen, amidst an ongoing crisis of imperialist-war-created mass starvation, cholera, and dengue fever. Despite the delivery of thousands of tons of aid from workers around the world, competition among the local capitalists means this aid rarely reaches the working class, or only does so through favoritism and/or extortion. This week we received an update from our friend since Covid-19 has been confirmed there, and we will struggle with our friend to write for CHALLENGE.

We also responded to a racist incident witnessed by a former student who now works in healthcare. The former student witnessed a racist coworker and a group of police beat a Muslim immigrant patient who was obviously emotionally disturbed. This despite protests from other healthcare workers and doctors at the hospital. During the beating the racists found a pocket-sized Quran, tore it in half, threw the torn pieces at the Muslim patient, and then stomped on the pieces on the ground.

Our former student contacted us. We supported this young worker and collectively discussed a plan of action to protest this racist incident. At the moment, the very real fears of reprisal and job consequences have won out, but we are still in touch with this young worker and will give whatever support we can.

As inter-imperialist rivalry sharpens and the U.S. bosses move ever closer to fascism and imperialist war, sharpening racism and sexism means we must be on higher alert. Our best and only defense against fascism is building a base for communist revolution in the working class. With increased dangers to the working class also come increased opportunities to expose this racist profit system, organize workers and students and fight back. Whether this antiracist struggle flares up or not, we gained valuable practice mobilizing our multiracial group ready to fight. Next time, we'll be even more ready for these conversations, and ready to up our organizing efforts.

We will have struggles ahead in winning the confidence of the working class to fight back and to join the Party. But while the capitalist crimes against our class grow daily from Yemen to New York, the struggle continues. Self-critically, as a part of this process, our club must also improve writing more articles and letters to CHALLENGE.

★★★★★

CHALLENGE is essential news!

When this crisis struck, the first thing that hit me is that we need to find a way to get our literature out there right away.

First, I wrote letters to each of my current CHALLENGE readers about the need to read the paper right now and sent them each a copy in the (snail) mail. Then I looked up as many of my former CHALLENGE readers as I could think of, wrote them letters, and sent them a paper by mail. Then I asked a couple of newer friends if they'd like to get the paper and sent it to them as well. I am currently sending CHALLENGE to over 30 people that way (one essential worker is taking 3 to work), and I have more former readers I am reaching out to with each issue. I have been following up with those readers to make sure they have read the articles I pointed out and ask their reactions. It is a great opportunity to get back in touch with people and gauge their thinking.

But it didn't feel like enough, so I started to get creative. Walking through my neighborhood, I saw several newspaper boxes that have been abandoned (papers not delivering during the crisis). I designed, printed, and pasted some homemade CHALLENGE signs on the front and put our papers inside, separating into English and Spanish so people can more easily see the headlines. I have been refilling them on an almost daily basis (and finding more), and people are taking them!

Rest in power, Harry!



CHALLENGE readers from the Midwest, Minneapolis, Chicago, and Detroit and also NYC and LA joined in mourning the untimely death of Harry McAllister on April 19, 2020. Harry died of the coronavirus and was on a respirator in Minneapolis. It is especially tragic that he died of the capitalist scourge of Covid-19; it is capitalism that Harry fought against his entire life.

We salute him as we remember his activities in the International Committee Against Racism (INCAR), Minneapolis Chapter, from the '70s through '90s. INCAR was then a mass organization of the Progressive Labor Party. Together we rallied, marched, had panels, and partied. Harry was a great dancer. Harry was in the action when the temperature was sub-zero and we protested the University's involvement in South Africa's Apartheid and we stood on the picket line at Hormel's meat packing plant supporting the P-9 workers.

Harry's international historic knowledge was immense. When we produced a South Africa Apartheid pamphlet, we didn't need Google, because he knew every notable person and date of every country in Africa. Rest in power, Harry!

In the last 10 days I have distributed 121 papers this way. I am now stocking 7 boxes and plan to expand further. (Another comrade has made homemade news boxes and has been placing them in soup kitchens.)

People are full of questions. This crisis has once again exposed the sham that is "democracy," revealing the chasms of racist inequality and the savage profit motive that guides all decisions in our society. But we shouldn't let down our guard for a minute; the bosses too are working overtime to push their twisted ideas. For example, liberals are pushing the idea that people like Cuomo can be stable, even heroic leaders (see article on Cuomo in CHALLENGE, 4/29/20) and that Biden can "unite the country." These ideas are poison for the working class.

That's why getting people CHALLENGE during this time is essential. As I have told my friends in my letters and phone calls, it is the only paper that is absolutely committed to the international working class and the only paper that will tell the whole truth about capitalism.

During the period leading up to the Bolshevik revolution, when the Bolshevik Party was illegal, workers smuggled newspapers into the Russian territories. Some women famously sewed stacks of them into their skirts.

Now during quarantine, we must find other creative ways to make sure the working class learns and spreads the news of communism and revolution. The struggle continues

★★★★★

Death to the fascists, powers to the workers!

April 28 is the 75th anniversary of the execution of Benito Mussolini, the fascist Italian dictator, by communist partisans. As World War II ended the Italian communists rid the world of one fascist, but they allowed capitalism to continue just with a 'democratic' façade. It's not just Mussolini or Donald Trump or Joe Biden, we have to get rid of the whole damn capitalist system, to paraphrase some of the young Black rebels who fought against racist police murder in Ferguson, Missouri. Let's rebuild a communist movement that will finally put the working class in power all over the world and put all the capitalists and their racist system in the rash heap of history!

At first a socialist, Mussolini was expelled from the Italian Socialist Party for supporting Italian participation in imperialist World War I. When the war ended, Italy appeared ripe for a communist revolution. But the young Italian Communist Party (PCI), though large, was not prepared. It was not a tightly organized, democratic centralist party like the Russian Bolsheviks had formed under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin. And it was geared more toward reformist politics than violent revolution.

Italian capitalists install fascist, imperialist Mussolini

Meanwhile Italian capitalists rushed to support Mussolini, who formed a nationalist dictatorship. His fascist party outlawed strikes and any independent labor movement, and killed or imprisoned communists. Communist leader Antonio Gramsci was arrested and spent the rest of his life in prison. Mussolini's fascist dictatorship arrested, tortured, and executed opponents. His uniformed thugs, the "Blackshirts," roamed the streets, beating and killing.

Unopposed by the imperialist Allies, Mussolini directed the brutal colonization of Libya, ultimately killing one third of its population. After 1936, he directed the imperialist conquest of Ethiopia, Somalia (then called Italian Somaliland), and Eritrea – again unopposed by the Western imperialists, who loved him for his anticommunism. The New York Times

reporter in Italy, Arnaldo Cortesi, openly supported Mussolini's policies.

Along with Nazi leader Adolf Hitler of Germany, Mussolini sent huge numbers of soldiers, military equipment, and airplanes to support fascist Francisco Franco during the Spanish Civil War. The Spanish Republic was strongly supported by Stalin and the Soviet Union, which the Allies feared. The Allies blockaded the Spanish Republic, thus guaranteeing that the fascist Franco would win.

Mussolini allies with Hitler

In June 1940, Mussolini sided with Hitler in the Second World War. Fascist Italian troops occupied Greece, Albania, parts of France and Northern Africa. When Hitler invaded the then-socialist Soviet Union (USSR) on June 22, 1941, Mussolini sent troops to fight against the USSR alongside the German army. After some initial victories, the Italian army was decimated at the Battle of Stalingrad, December 1942-February 1943.

In July 1943, the Grand Council of Fascism overthrew Mussolini and the Italian King appointed a new leader. The new capitalist government tried to side with the Allies. Meanwhile Mussolini was rescued by a German commando raid and taken to Northern Italy, where he was made head of a puppet Italian state.

Communists lead resistance to fascism; kill Mussolini

The communists refused to support the new capitalist government formed by the King. They intensified their guerrilla war against both German and Italian fascist troops. Communist fighting units had political commissars, who promoted communist political consciousness among the volunteers. Many were organizing workers in the cities, while others fought in the countryside. Throughout World War II the Italian Communist Party led the underground opposition to fascism. The communist "Garibaldi Brigades" were the most numerous anti-fascist fighters and also suffered the most casualties in the anti-fascist war.

On April 25, 1945, the heavily communist National Liberation Committee of Northern Italy ordered a general insurrection in all territories still occupied by the Nazi fascists. They directed all partisan forces in Northern Italy to attack fascists and Germans, and demand their surrender. The watchword was "Surrender or Die!" Mussolini and dozens of other fascist leaders fled, heading for neutral Switzerland.

Mussolini and 52 fascist leaders were arrested on April 27. Communist-led partisans shot Mussolini the next day. His body and that of his mistress, Clara Petacci, were driven to Milan and hanged by the heels in a local square, the Piazzale Loreto, along with the bodies of other fascist leaders.

Reformist politics allow capitalists to maintain power

The partisans had wanted to seize power in Italy before the Allied troops arrived to put capitalist figures back into power. However, this proved impossible with the huge American army present. In May, 1945, the Allies and the capitalist Italian government ordered the partisans to disarm. But only about 60 percent of the weapons were turned in. Many communists did not trust the new government, and kept weapons and other military equipment. Throughout the 1950s, many partisans expected a return to guerrilla warfare in the mountains against the capitalist Italian State.

But the PCI adopted the sellout "peaceful co-existence" line, expecting to gain "socialism through the ballot box." This rotten policy, ordered by the revisionist (phony communist) Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, led to defeat after defeat.

Fight for communism

We in the Progressive Labor Party salute and respect the great achievements, victories, and sacrifices of our forebears in the Italian communist movement. We are also determined not to repeat their mistakes – especially, the error of trusting the capitalists. Communist revolution is the only way to working-class power.☪



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from the capitalist press that might be of use for our readers

NYT=New York Times

GW= Guardian Weekly

Virus 'Tinderbox of death'

NYT, 4/16 — A human catastrophe inside America's houses of detention. As the virus spreads, 2.3 million prisoners...are living or working cheek by jowl, vulnerable to this highly contagious scourge, poorly supplied with protective gear and unable to practice social distancing....

"The spread inside jails is going to be quick and massive, particularly in areas with limited access to health care facilities from Louisiana to California to New York," said Pilar Weiss...of the National Bail Fund Network.... "We are literally creating tinderboxes of death."

Around the country....people in jail and immigration detention....have not been convicted of a crime and are typically incarcerated while they await a hearing or trial, too poor to post the bail or bond to secure their temporary release.

In New York, people released after an arrest overwhelmingly come back to court....fully 93 percent appeared....

Local jails — where people not convicted of a crime await their court date — are fertile breeding grounds for disease. Over 200,000 people flow into and out of local jails every week...threaten to accelerate the spread of the disease...Over 670,000 people sit in...jails and immigration detention centers, accused but not convicted of a crime, often for long stretches, waiting for a trial or hearing.In one notable case...Layleen Polanco died while in restrictive housing at Rikers Island in New York City after being incarcerated for two months....unable to come up with \$500 bail....

...Now, with the number of Covid-19 cases

mounting among the people incarcerated...a criminal [In] justice system has become a public health imperative.

Hospitals = Murder, Inc.

NYT, 4/13 — The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's principal gatekeeper for health care mergers,...grant[ed] "early termination of its review of a \$108 million health care acquisition. Newport Medical Instruments, a small developer of cheap, portable ventilators, was being acquired by Covidien, a much larger American company, headquartered in Ireland for tax purposes.....

Approving that merger without conditions,...would cripple what had been a...program...to build an emergency stockpile of up to 40,000 portable ventilators with the eventual help of Newport Medical Instruments. But Covidien terminated the project...because it was insufficiently profitable.

That cancellation set back the federal ventilator program by at least seven years. In fact, 13 years later...not a single ventilator has been delivered... The United States' approach to mergers and consolidation is broken... [especially] when it comes to health care....The Newport merger is only one in a long line of disasters....

The FTC...[is] largely unable to stop another abuse: the transfer, by large pharmaceutical companies, of individual drug brands to tiny companies that subsequently raise the prices of drugs by factors of thousands....The most notorious example was the sale of Daraprim...used to treat a life-threatening parasitic infection, from Impax Laboratories to Turing Pharmaceuticals. Turing raised the price of Daraprim from \$13.50 to nearly \$750.

....The greatest failure...has been the FTC's inability...to stop hospital consolidation....To many hospital mergers tend to yield higher prices and lower quality of care...not to mention bed shortages. After a bad hospital merger, patients pay more and die more.

Imperialist exploitation left a trail of a world-wide pandemic

NYT, 4/23 — Another pandemic...[is one] of starvation, illiteracy and poverty....Famine in about three dozen countries....have enormous vulnerabilities,...overcrowded slums and health systems in which doctors are scarce and ventilators almost nonexistent. Ten countries in Africa have no ventilators at all....

Almost 4 out of 10 people worldwide,...3 billion....don't have hand-washing options at home.... Polio eradication campaigns are being suspended. The same...[for] Vitamin A distribution which saves children's lives....

In Bangladesh...household incomes have declined an average of 75 percent. Factory workers saw incomes drop by 79 percent, drivers by 80 percent, city day laborers by 82 percent, maids by 68 percent....Four in ten...had three days worth of food at home or less.

Schools are closed...and some students, especially girls... will probably never return to their studies....The pandemic could almost double the number of people suffering from acute hunger.... When infants and toddlers are malnourished, their brains don't grow well, and they may suffer life-long cognitive deficits....There is no safety net or system.

Official U.S. unemployment headed for 41 percent

Shadowstats 24/28 — Unfolding economic reality....Ten million missed unemployment claims in March...reflected in the headline unemployment surveying. The Shadowstats Alternate Unemployment measure was 21.1 percent in February.... The current April forecast is...41 percent...depending on...increasing counts of persons working part-time...or otherwise marginally-attached to the labor force.

COVID-19 EXPOSES HOSPITALS AS CAPITALIST SLAUGHTERHOUSES

As communists, we know that the collective labor of billions of workers around the world is what creates all value, and is essential for any functioning society. As the Covid-19 pandemic rages on and leaves trails of dead workers in its wake, many workers are becoming acutely aware of how important one another's work really is in order to preserve life, even under a system as destructive and unequal as capitalism.

One of the capitalist industries right now that has millions of workers thinking about and criticizing the system's rigid and sexist division of labor are the healthcare systems. In major cities across the U.S. and beyond, as Black and Latin workers suffer disproportionate rates of death as a result of Covid-19. Many hospital, nursing home, and clinic workers—mostly Black, Latin, and immigrant women—are waging bold struggles to save and protect as many lives as possible. As they do so, many are pressuring the bosses to provide the necessary resources to do so.

Comrades from the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) who work in the healthcare industry are fighting too in order to give political and organizational leadership to our working-class sisters and brothers during this crisis. Our goal is to win as many workers as possible to our vision of a communist society that smashes racism worldwide, breaks down capitalism's rigid division of labor, and prioritizes the health of our class above all else.

Workers must unite, fight racism and elitism for the health of the masses

The work of health care workers during the pandemic has shown what the working class is capable of. The unity of custodians, nursing assistants, nurses, physician assistants, and doctors risking their lives to take care of countless sick and dying people shows the working class at its finest.

If the division between the "professionals" and the "non professional" workers can be overcome, healthcare workers constitute an incredible force in an industry which employs over 11 percent of the U.S. working class. Black workers are the most militant workers in this industry and continue to take the lead struggle after struggle.

The elitist divisions between professional (nurses and doctors) and nonprofessional workers is a major stumbling block and the most potent weapon the bosses have in combating the militancy of



healthcare workers. Most of the doctors are now salaried employees and the possibility of starting a private practice is increasingly small. They do not own their means of production. Wages are relatively high because of the cost of reproducing their labor power and they have artificially maintained a racist and sexist guild structure.

Custodians, nursing assistants, and increasingly nurses are disproportionately Black, Latin, Asian and immigrant workers. This multiracial character of workers is fertile ground for struggling against racism and sexism and building multiracial working-class unity around a revolutionary communist perspective.

Mobilize for communist revolution

Working-class fighters, including many PLP comrades, have been hosting regular conferences in order to build a strategy to win during the current period. After much discussion, we have built a plan that can help us build our mass, fighting, communist Party on multiple fronts.

Through social media and other outlets, we have begun to compile and share research with other workers that exposes the disgustingly racist nature of the capitalist

profit system. Specifically, how Black, Latin, immigrant and incarcerated workers are suffering and dying at shocking rates as a result of Covid-19. We have explained that these deadly inequalities are ingrained in capitalism, which needs to divide the working class by race, nation, and gender to reap maximum profits.

In cities like Chicago, we have begun to lead struggles in hospitals, pressuring the bosses to provide lifesaving protective gear, better staffing, and hazard pay for workers across the board. We are building upon relationships that we have forged in struggle with many co-workers over the years from many different job categories. Consistently we have actively worked to overcome racist, sexist and elitist divisions in our workplaces and build a more egalitarian communist vision of how healthcare should

function. We have developed scientifically-based guidelines for our comrades and other fighters to follow when participating in rallies, including appropriate physical distancing and protective gear.

Finally, many of us have also participated in car rallies and shared information with peers to challenge the deadly racist outbreaks of Covid-19 in major jails across the country. We are building upon long-term struggles for decarceration in various public health organizations as key struggles to overcome further unnecessary illness and death of workers.

Away with all capitalist pests

Following the example of communists in the Soviet Union and China after their socialist revolutions, we can draw a lot of inspiration and knowledge on the advances that can be made for the health of the masses. This is especially when labor is collectively organized and shared, and essentials like hospitals and medicine are no longer about profit. We are proud and excited to win more workers to that vision and to fight for a communist world where racist capitalist pandemics are a relic of the past.🇸🇴

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